

The Times-Dispatch
Business Office: 1100 Main Street
Richmond, Va.
Telephone: 1000
Daily Edition: 1000
Sunday Edition: 1000
Weekly (Wednesday): 1000

BY MAIL
One Six Three One
Year: \$12.00
Six Months: \$6.00
Three Months: \$3.00
Daily without Sunday: 1000
Daily with Sunday: 1000
Sunday only: 1000

Entered January 25, 1906, at Richmond, Va., as second-class matter under act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1911.

A GREATER RICHMOND THROUGH A BETTER GOVERNMENT.

United for the progress of Richmond, more than 300 representative citizens met at the Business Men's Club last night to discuss and hear discussed the plan for a better government for Richmond. No more convincing evidence of the fine quality of our citizenship could have been presented than the unanimous and enthusiastic spirit shown at the meeting. There was nothing half-hearted, nothing pessimistic about the assembly, which, for almost three hours, listened to the plan for a greater Richmond through a better government. Every good thing said about the city, every suggestion for its improvement, every declaration of faith in Richmond, evoked the ringing approval of those assembled. Some went to the meeting with the idea that it would be a conference of a handful of struggling reformers and malcontents, peppered with a booster here and there, but it was not. It was a general outpouring of Richmond's best citizens—men representing all lines of activity—business men, college professors, lawyers, physicians, traveling men, city officials, State officials, Councilmen, ministers, artisans, mechanics—men of many different walks, but united for their city's welfare.

It was a meeting unanimous in sentiment. There was not a single protest against the new plan, no knocker arose to inject conjunctions and interrogations. As Councilman Pollock so happily said, the knockers had at last come into the fold; class and caste and creed have been fused by civic spirit into one body moving forward.

The new plan was discussed fully and frankly. Mayor Richardson opened the discussion by stating what all now concede to be a fact—that our form of city government is "antiquated." "We cannot under our present form of government obtain the very best results by the very best administration," he declared. A simpler form is needed in which there will be centralization of responsibility. This demands no radical change, but is simply a return to the old principle that the legislative and administrative departments of government should be wholly separated. The Mayor clearly pointed out the defects in the present government of the city, showing how well-nigh interminable delay is brought about, how authority is decentralized, how war rivalry defeats city prosperity. His unqualified endorsement to the city administrative board proposition was given by the Mayor, who believes in a centralization of authority and responsibility.

In a vigorous address, City Attorney Pollard championed the new plan in its entirety, believing that the meeting last night betokens "great good to the city." His was a timely warning, however—this is a fight, "no fight with cornstalks," but a fight against determined men who do not want progressive municipal methods in Richmond. "Put your shoulders to the wheel and push," he urged, and his advice should be heeded by all those who back the new plan. Mr. Pollard, Charles V. Meredith and Henry W. Rountree put their fingers on many flaws in the present form of city government of Richmond, showing that it is not cohesive or co-operative and that it is contradictory.

They made it clear that the city should be operated upon business principles, but by business men who have nothing else to do but attend to the affairs of the city, and not by business men who have little time to do anything but attend to their private business. They urged a chain of fact and illustration, showing that the present form of government is wasteful, dilatory and cumbersome, but they all stressed the point that the fault is not at the door of the Council members, but at the door of the form of government employed.

Councilman Pollock spoke as a politician, and he urged every backer of the new plan to become a politician for the time being and work politically for the plan until its success is assured. If only the citizens interested will insist that their representatives in the Council carefully investigate the plan, that will be all that is necessary, for as Mr. Pollock well said, "no man who carefully investigates this plan can oppose it." If the citizens interested will actively support the plan, its adoption will be assured, and such adoption, in the words of Mr. Pollock, "is absolutely necessary for the welfare of the city." Councilman Lynch, in similar vein, insisted that every backer of the plan should qualify to vote, because it is the duty of every good citizen and every good business man to vote and see to it that his voice is counted. No one rose to deny his opinion that half those present were not qualified voters, and when he said, "I don't pay any attention to any man who hasn't a vote," he expressed the attitude of most Councilmen. Moral: to get a Councilman's ear, first be sure you've got a vote.

One of the most striking things about the meeting was that there was no disposition to criticize the members of the present or past Councils. There was general agreement that the city legislative body had been unusually free from charges of misconduct, propriety or graft. This fact fitted in well with the opinion of Henry W. Rountree that the best way to boom a city is to boom its government. It was the same speaker who urged that adoption of the new plan of city government and its successful operation would boost Richmond as nothing else could. There is no reason why the city government of Richmond should not become a model for other cities to follow, and when that model has been fashioned, the progress and prosperity of Richmond will be speeded as never before. More businesslike government means bigger business for the city, and bigger business for the city means the greater Richmond toward which all our eyes are turned.

KEEP THE TREASURER'S OFFICE OPEN.

Richmond has suffered from lack of representation of her voting list partly by reason of the poll tax and partly from natural unwillingness to take up the burdens of citizenship. The voting population of this city has shrunk while the tax-paying, wealth-producing, bank-depositing number of citizens has waxed great and numerous.

Now, this difference in growth, or rather this actual going backwards in the number of voters, while the population of the city at large has so greatly increased, is a convincing proof either that the interest of the citizens in politics has greatly decreased, and is decreasing, or that the burdens on exercising the right of voters are too heavy. The Times-Dispatch inclines to the belief that there is a great deal of truth in both of these explanations.

Certainly there is sufficient explanation in much of the falling off of voters to be found in the single fact that the Treasurer's office closes at an hour when it is impossible for many voters to appear and pay their poll taxes.

A man who is thoroughly informed as to the voting conditions in Richmond is authority for the statement that at least 2,000 citizens would register if the Treasurer's office is kept open in the evenings, so as to make it possible for the workmen and those whose occupation confines them very closely, to pay their taxes after 6 o'clock.

The city of Richmond runs the Treasurer's office for the benefit of the city and the citizens. That is why every effort should be made to run that office so as to reawaken the interest of the voters and increase the number of those who show their interest by active participation in city elections. First the voters must be placed on the rolls, and many are left off because the office is shut.

SURROUNDED BY BARKISES.

Both sides to the civil war in China, for such the "rebellion" has come to be, are said to dread intervention of the powers as the result of the anti-foreign demonstration in Shen-Si, should details prove that demonstration to have extended beyond the one or two sporadic murders so far reported. And well they may, for once the native blood lust against the "foreign devils" shall have been whetted to its usual intensity, there is no telling where and in what the welter would end.

There could hardly be else for the powers to do than repeat their "protection interference" in the Boxer movement. But it is not likely that the conclusion of this would be the same as in 1900—withdrawal after the expedition had accomplished the work of pacification, without the partition of the empire. Quite the contrary. Since then Germany is more firmly than ever established in her control of Kiao-Chow, and her interests have vastly increased, and her sphere of influence has greatly expanded in that quarter. Moreover, she has replaced with a first-class naval establishment the few "old tubs" the Kaiser sent out in command of his sailor brother to inaugurate a new Hanseatic era of German commercial development.

France, which made a grab in southern China following the murder of a missionary, is casting covetous eyes in the direction of territory between her present possessions and the upper reaches of the Yang-Tse Kiang, the greatest commercial artery of China. Also she is in a position to throw a French army from Yunnan across the border in twenty-four hours, a strategic railway being available for the purpose.

That Great Britain had her zone of occupation marked out in eastern China in 1900, when, through the influence and good offices of Secretary Hay, the preservation of the integrity of the empire was agreed upon, is well known. More recently, as again is well known, she has been steadily augmenting her facilities for entering China by the back door through Tibet, from India. Russia is planted in northern and Japan in southern Manchuria, the former longing to extend further her beneficent and patronizing hand over Mongolia and Chinese Turkestan, the latter burning with desire for Far East hegemony; while it is true that both of these nations are emphatically pledged—having given a pledge to the other—against intervening in the affairs of

territorial spoliation of their neighbor, both may find it conveniently impossible to keep the pledge, as nations, when opportune occasions have arisen, have done aforesaid. Surrounded thus as China is on all four sides by Barkises, more or less willing, it is obvious that we have a third factor of the Chinese problem, which, in the event of the anti-foreign crusade's spreading, may prove, as affecting her future, far more serious than any possible outcome of the internal strife in itself.

THE YEAR'S RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.

On June 30 the Interstate Commerce Commission completed a year's record of railroad accidents, under the law of May 6, 1910, requiring more detailed reports from the railways than were made previously. The Bureau of Railway Economics, commenting upon this record, says that but ninety-six passengers were killed in the year by fault of the railroads. The total number of passengers killed was 358, against 421 in 1910 and 335 in 1909.

The analysis of the bureau regards as passengers killed through accidents for which railways were not responsible eighteen passengers on freight trains, fifty-seven newsboys, express or mail clerks and Pullman employes and 185 "passengers coming in contact with obstructions, getting on and off cars, being run over in yards and on crossings." There seems to be a rather technical distinction as to who is a passenger, but greater care by the railroads is demonstrated by the fact that the total number of passengers killed in 1911 was less than in 1910.

The whole number of employees killed in the year, 3,502, is divided by the bureau into 1,201 through accidents for which the railways "may have been responsible," and 2,301 for which they were not responsible. The largest item in the "not responsible" classification was 1,217 killed "by being struck or run over by engines or cars in yards, at crossings and elsewhere." That means, apparently, that yards and crossings are not as safe as they might be. Five thousand two hundred and eighty-four "trespassers" and 1,154 other persons, not passengers or employees, were killed in the year, and that should be a warning to the people who accept the penalty of trespass by walking on railroad tracks.

A BUSINESS CLUB THAT COUNTS.

No more successful meeting of the representative men of Richmond has been held for many a day than that at the Business Men's Club last night, when hundreds of the citizens gathered to hear the new plan of government for the city discussed. Everybody left that meeting more interested in Richmond and more committed to work for its welfare. From the beginning to the end there was displayed a spirit of civic enthusiasm which will have no small practical result in the progress of the city.

It was the unselfish enterprise of the Business Men's Club which was responsible for the success of the gathering. That strong organization was the host of the evening, and everybody was made to feel at home as one of a great many working to a common end—a greater Richmond. It was a pleasant occasion which brought together in a pleasant way a great body of citizens of serious mind and serious purpose, and in effecting this, the Business Men's Club demonstrated anew to the community that it is a strong factor in the progress of the city. The wide-awake men who are conducting the club brought together a wide-awake assemblage to consider a wide-awake proposition, and Richmond is indebted to the club for its alert public spirit.

BLOCKING DR. WILEY.

More than two months have passed since the attempt to oust Dr. Wiley from the Department of Agriculture came to an inglorious end. His exonerated inclusion approval of his employment of Dr. H. H. Rusby as an assistant, which was the foundation upon which the proceedings against Dr. Wiley were laid. The findings implied at the same time censure of Solicitor McCabe, who headed the fight against Wiley, and Secretary Wilson, who readily agreed to the wishes of McCabe.

Despite the result, Dr. Wiley has not been given the free hand promised him. McCabe still is in power, although he has been staying well in the background. Secretary Wilson shows no sign of repentance. Dr. Wiley has made it clear that he considers the services of Dr. Rusby invaluable. Yet Wilson and McCabe have succeeded in holding up Dr. Rusby's salary and expense accounts since the decision of the President upholding Dr. Wiley. The cause given is a technical one, relating to department bookkeeping, but all efforts to adjust the matter have failed.

It looks as if an attempt is being made to block Dr. Wiley and force Rusby out. In refraining from interfering to thwart Wilson and McCabe, President Taft is making another serious blunder and is again disregarding the plain will of the people of the nation, who believe in Dr. Wiley and wish success to his efforts in his war upon impure food.

NOTHING NEW.

In an old statute unearthed by the Cincinnati Inquirer again we have proof that there is nothing new under the sun, the especial proof in this instance consisting in the fact that the statute is directed against trusts and combinations. It is or was a Kentucky statute inherited from Virginia, to which it came down from the time of Edward VI., and was designed to put a stop to meat, breveries, bread and fruit trusts and combinations of laborers to force up wages.

Collier, in commenting on the discovery, observes that if the law were

carried out to-day it would make the Sherman act look very gentle. Unquestionably, since its enforcement would ornament Wall Street and other localities with men who had lost their eyes, ears or tongues, or been embroiled in their hands and foreheads with red-hot iron designs, for conspiring in restraint of trade.

Verily, the present generation of trust "malefactors" does not know when it is well off!

THE DISAPPEARING BED.

A Chicago newspaper gives a description of a South Side apartment house which will cost \$175,000, will be but four stories high, and will contain sixty-six apartments of two, three and four rooms, all equipped with disappearing beds. The rent will be from \$40 to \$100 the month.

The disappearing bed is the latest trill in housebuilding. It seems only fair that the city dweller who must keep down his rent bill should be able to hire an apartment with a bed invisible when not in use. The bed is a part of the building, and the tenant need only bring some bedding and small furniture with him.

A two-room apartment equipped in this fashion would be almost as satisfactory as a four-room apartment of the old style, in which two rooms are used for sleeping rooms only. The vanishing bed is a great improvement, for in the average apartment these days one feels very much as if he were living in a toy house.

Edison says that Americans sleep too much, but that will not do for an excuse for the old man when he gets in very late.

A California salesman was excused from jury duty because he could not recall the text of the last sermon he had heard. If that is the test, then we know of several men who will never sit with eleven other of the prisoner's "peers."

A Kansas farmer claims that he is raising six-legged hogs. That is good news to those of us who are fond of pig's feet.

Voice of the People

Woman and the Ballot.
To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:
In the issue of your paper of November 2, R. H. Banks, of California, airs his views of woman's suffrage to an amusing degree.

I am not quite sure that he asked his wife and daughter if they wanted to vote. They both replied in unison "No," and asked him what he was thinking about. I am not quite sure that the gentleman makes himself clear as to what he does think; but if he is setting forth that statement as an argument against woman's suffrage, he is like to ask him if he wants to be disfranchised, cause one-third of the men do not vote.

In the city of Richmond on November 2, the largest number of votes cast for any one candidate was 2,500 and there were 10,000 men qualified to vote, and several thousand more that had not qualified by registering.

So much for the city of Richmond. Now as to our State, Virginia. "God bless her with ten years' delay," says the march of progress when not one-third of the men of her capital exercise their privilege for good government.

Mr. Banks states that California gave her women the franchise because of outrage against her, forced by a few men of uncertain minds. Truly, it is amusing to the people who are familiar with the great minds of the day that are reinforcing the community of all the world, and the world of all the world.

"Governor Mann," says this writer, "predicts suffrage for the women of Virginia within ten years. And he adds: 'But Governor Mann is a ladies' man and likes to say things to please the ladies.' I should like to add, that the times and reads right the handwriting on the wall. For the thinking men of Virginia, like the thinking men of all the world, are rapidly coming to regard their women as not only fair, lovely and beautiful, but as the greatest piece of God's creation. He is recognizing in her the ability to be more than a mere auxiliary in the battle and stress of life. He is seeing that her opportunities broaden, she is growing to fulfil those opportunities.

I predict that the day is coming when the man whose wife and daughter say they do not want to vote will be just as ashamed of that statement as he should be were they to say they did not believe in God and humanity.

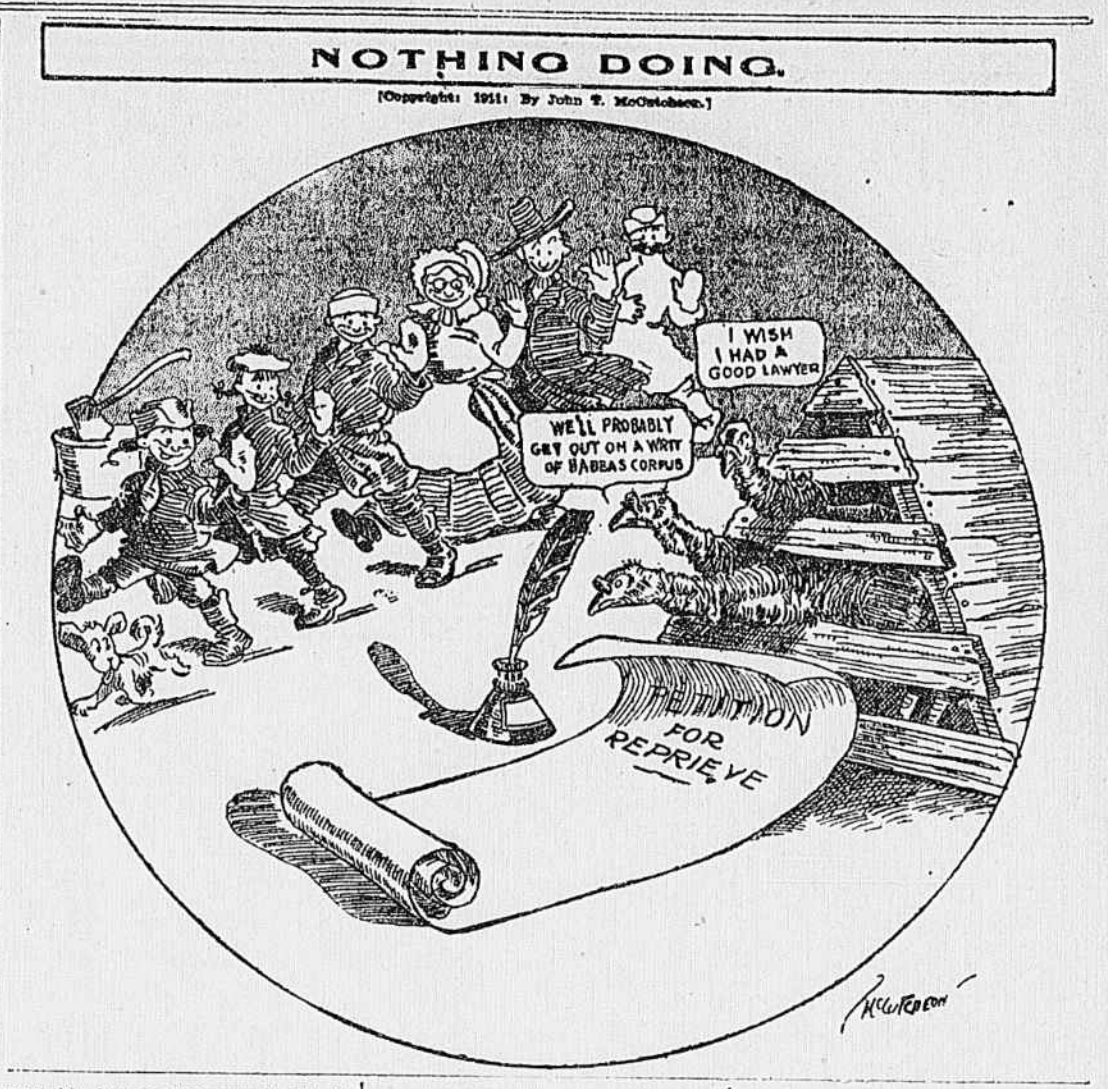
I should certainly be obliged if some man would logically explain what there is about casting a vote that will ruin women. At whom I have heard express themselves on the subject give no reason, except women have no business in politics, or that it will take away the pedestal upon which men have so long placed them.

If women have no business in politics, they have no business rearing children. If they have no business in politics, they should not be compelled, in many cases, to support themselves. If they have no business in politics, they have no business going to school with the direction and management of a home. If they really act on the pedestal, men would believe that they do, then men should make laws to provide that women have no responsibility whatsoever, except that of rearing children, the home and the school.

Now the "suffrage agitators" in Virginia are fully aware that there are members of women who do not want to vote, but they do not feel so badly

Abe Martin

Next to a blue tail, all pink flowers
Her habit nothing that spoils a land
In his bare feet, he sits on the veranda
Wouldn't be so bad if he'd just keep
Still about it.



La Marquise de Fontenoy

THE whirligig of time brings about many odd changes. Some thirty years ago, the fascinating Countess Alexandra Hutten Czapor, wife of young Nicholas de Kolomine, secretary of the Russian legation at Bern, was the toast of the town in the Swiss capital. All the young men, and many of the old ones as well, were at her feet. An ardent flirt and a heartless coquette, she seemed to delight in provoking trouble, and so many duels were fought on her account, not only among the members of the foreign diplomatic corps, but even among the more phlegmatic Bernese, (who are very patriotic in their prejudices and ideas) and so much domestic happiness was utterly seriously disturbed or entirely wrecked that the Helvetic government, at last weary of the extra-ordinary step of requesting the Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs to transfer young de Kolomine and, above all, his wife, to some other post, separated the Countess from the Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs to transfer young de Kolomine and, above all, his wife, to some other post.

Evidently the Countess was not satisfied about the matter. Otherwise it is improbable in the extreme that he would have sanctioned the appointment of the Countess to the court of his nephew, the late Grand Duke Louis of Baden. For no sooner was Mme. de Kolomine established at Darmstadt than she straightway began to set her cap at the grand duke, who, a widower of uxorious disposition, felt particularly lonely. In course of time the Countess was transferred to Japan, at the instance of the grand duke, who possessed the Countess's friendship and influence at St. Petersburg. Kolomine remained behind at Darmstadt, and when they had thus been separated, their marriage was equally quietly annulled.

The grand duke would have married Mme. de Kolomine at once—morganatically, of course, and with the consent of his first wife's mother, Queen Victoria. He was largely dependent on her, in a financial sense, and also was aware of the benefits which his children were to receive under the terms of her will, and he knew that the Prince's marriage with the late Grand Duke Sergius of Russia, took place at Darmstadt, in the presence of the Emperor and Empress of Germany, and of royal and imperial personages from all the courts of Europe. The Countess's marriage with the grand duke, however, was an almost unpardonable affront, even, however, the marriage of his daughter, Princess Elizabeth, to the late Emperor and Empress Frederick of Germany, and of royal and imperial personages from all the courts of Europe. The Countess's marriage with the grand duke, however, was an almost unpardonable affront, even, however, the marriage of his daughter, Princess Elizabeth, to the late Emperor and Empress Frederick of Germany, and of royal and imperial personages from all the courts of Europe.

Some one betrayed him to the old Queen. He was summoned to her presence near midnight on the same day from his bride's apartment, and under the threat of ostracism from the courts of Great Britain and of Berlin, he was obliged to resign his position as a soldier of the Russian army, and the elimination of his own name and that of his children from her will gave him consent to the deportation that same night of Mme. de Kolomine from his dominions, by the police, without ever seeing her again. Shortly after the marriage was annulled, the Countess and German tribunals as illegal, on the ground that the grand duke, being a German, had married without previously obtaining the sanction of his superior officer, his generalissimo, old Emperor William. The Countess received an annuity of 10,000 marks a year for the remainder of her life. The son born of her union with the grand duke, was brought up by her half-sister, the present Empress of Russia, and is now serving as an officer in the Russian army.

The Countess of Romrod, two years after her first marriage to the Grand Duke of Hesse, married the Russian diplomat, de Bacharach, who has recently been appointed as envoy extraordinary to the United States. The former Mme. de Kolomine, now Mme. de Bacharach and Countess of Romrod, has returned as Muscovite minister. She still retains many traces of her former beauty, is witty and as clever as ever, but is no longer considered dangerous by the Swiss government, except in the role of a political intriguer.

Lord Carnarvon, who repeatedly visited this country as Lord Porchester,

Eleven Hundred and Nine East Main Street
is the temporary home of one of Richmond's Best Banks.

WILLIAM G. WILLIAMS
Cincinnati, O.